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Morning and Evening

PRAYERS.

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1865.

MORNING AND EVENING

PRAYERS.

Sunday Morning.

ALMIGHTY and ever-blessed God, source of all being, and fountain of all good; we, thy children, created by thee, continually preserved by thee, and indebted to thee for all that we possess and all that we enjoy, would come before thee this morning, to express our sense of thy goodness to us, to acknowledge our dependence upon thee, to adore thy greatness, and commend ourselves to thy care.

Glory be to thy name that thou hast made us capable of holding communion

with thee, the Father of our spirits, and of receiving the revelations of thy word and will. Glory be to thy name for the heavenly doctrines, precepts, and promises of the gospel of thy Son. We make it our earnest prayer to thee, that our hearts may be touched by its holy influences, that our characters may be formed by its spirit, that our lives may be governed by its laws. Oh guide us, we beseech thee, in the ways of its truth to the everlasting home which it promises to the righteous.

Let our attendance this day on thy public worship, and the services and instructions of thy house, conduce to our spiritual improvement and our eternal good. Let us enter thy gates with thanksgiving, and thy courts with praise, and take with us our best af-

fections and resolutions to the temple of the Lord. Suffer not our minds to be distracted, nor our devotions to languish. Let not our thoughts, which ought to be engaged in the holiest offices, be still returning to the cares, pleasures, and follies of a transitory world; neither let us take thy name upon our lips when our hearts are far from thee. But let our prayers and meditations exalt and purify us, and assist us to discharge our duties in this life, and contribute to prepare us for that eternal world to which we are rapidly hastening.

Bless all who call upon thy name this day. May they approach thee in sincerity, humility, and love. May all denominations of Christians, however divided in opinion, be joined together in the bond of peace and an

earnest regard for the interests of true religion and virtue. And oh, let the name and the gospel of thy Son be known and glorified more and more, till the whole world shall come to the perfect light, and embrace the truth as it is in Jesus. In his worthy name, and as his disciples, we offer these our petitions; ascribing to thee, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, all glory and honor, might, majesty, and dominion, now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Sunday Evening.

OUR Father who art in heaven; accept, we beseech thee, our grateful acknowledgments for thy goodness to us this day; for preserving our lives; for shielding us from danger; for supplying our daily bread; for permitting our attendance on the ordinances of thy house. Let it not be in vain that those of us who have united with thy people in public worship, have lifted up our thoughts to God and listened to the voice of instruction. We fervently pray that whatever good impressions may have been made upon us may be durable; that whatever

good resolutions we may have formed may be steadfastly kept; that the errors which we have confessed may be reformed; that every devout aspiration we may have breathed in the sanctuary may be remembered in the world, to guard us against temptation, and preserve us holy and undefiled. Help us all to set our affections on things above. Keep ever in our minds a lively sense of our responsibility to thee. May we constantly live as in thy world, in thy sight, as thy subjects, thy creatures, thy children. Let it be our study at home and abroad, by day and by night, to love and fear thee as we ought, and to do those things which are well pleasing in thy sight.

We acknowledge, O thou Father and judge of men, that we have sinned against thee; that notwithstanding we

have been continued in the world from day to day, and thy mercies have been borne to us on the wings of every hour, we have been undutiful and unthankful; we have often forgotten, and often disobeyed thee. O Father, pardon and reclaim us, and give us that repentance which needeth not to be repented of. Cleanse us from our secret faults, and let sin have no dominion over us. Enable us to become true followers of thy Son Jesus Christ in all things; to clothe ourselves with his humility, purity, and benevolence. Let thy will, as it was his, be ours also. Like him, may we go about doing good. May the contemplation of his character, and imitation of his example, bring us constantly nearer to his own perfection, and to those mansions of everlasting happiness which he has promised to

his disciples, and gone before to prepare for them.

Take us, Almighty God, under thy sovereign protection. Make us in soul and body wholly thine. Sanctify our domestic relations; and strengthen and purify the bonds of love which join thy servants together. May the blessings which we receive from thee, excite our gratitude and animate our obedience. May those sorrows, and privations, and pains, with which in thy wisdom thou mayest afflict us, be endured with fortitude and resignation, and improved to our eternal peace. Watch over us during the darkness of this night, and the defenceless hours of sleep; preserve us from all dangers; and bring us to the light of another morning more inclined to love thee, and resolved to serve thee, than we ever have been.

Accept our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise, which we offer in the name of Jesus Christ our most blessed Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

Monday Morning.

GREAT and glorious Lord our God; we, thy servants, whom thou hast brought to see the light of another morning, prostrate ourselves before thee, and humbly acknowledge thee as the God of our lives and the giver of all good. It is thou who sustainest us in the defenceless hours of sleep, and when we awake we are still with thee. Encompassed by the same care which guarded us by night, we go forth to the occupations of the day. O God, our trust is in thee. Give us grace to perform our duty faithfully; to use this world as not abusing it; to hold fast our integrity as long as we

live; to remember that thou seest us always, and that we must render a final account of all that we do to thee, the witness and the judge of men.

We thank thee, O most merciful Father, for our domestic ties and family blessings. May we, the members of this household, mutually endeavor to discharge our several duties to each other with tenderness and fidelity. Let the gentle and pure spirit of the blessed Jesus possess our hearts, and influence our conduct. Let tranquillity, harmony, and love abide in our dwelling, and the voice of health and cheerfulness be continually heard in it. Wilt thou extend thy loving-kindness to all our friends. Delight in their happiness here, and make them heirs of the inheritance of the saints in the future and eternal world.

O thou, whose blessing is on the habitation of the just, let us be the joyful objects of that blessing, now and for evermore. Let thy mercy encompass our abode, and follow us in all our ways. Throughout our earthly pilgrimage, be thou our guide and comforter; let thy rod and thy staff be our support in the valley of the shadow of death; and lift up the light of thy countenance upon us in the regions of eternal day. O God, hear us in thy great mercy; pity our infirmities; pardon our sins; and from our united hearts accept this tribute of devotion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Monday Evening.

O THOU who dwellest in the heavens, but whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, unto thee do we lift up our souls. Thou art never far from any one of us, and we cannot flee from thy presence. If we say, The darkness shall hide us, even the night shall be light about us; for the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. Thou seest us at this moment, and discernest every thought and intention of our hearts. Thou art acquainted with all our ways, and there is not a word in our tongues, but lo, O Lord, thou

knowest it altogether. Let this momentous truth be deeply impressed upon our minds. However occupied, and in whatever place or circumstances we may be, may we remember that thou art with us; that no fault which we commit will be overlooked; no virtue we exercise be unnoticed, and no prayers which we utter be unheard by thee, our God. Encircled in thy protecting arms, may we fear no evil. Encompassed by thine awful presence, may we dread all sin. When discouraged by difficulties, let us look up to thee from whom our help cometh; and when distressed by calamity, may we take refuge in thy mercy, and find peace by staying our minds on the eternal One. Through life, may we act always as seeing him who is invisible. In death, may we find our con-

solation in the presence of him, who, when flesh and heart fail, will be the strength of our heart and our portion for ever.

Accept our thanks, most merciful Father, for thy great goodness in bringing us to the close of another day, in the enjoyment of so many blessings. While we gratefully receive the gifts of thy bounty, let us not incur the guilt of loving the creature more than the Creator, or of laying up treasure on earth to the neglect of our treasure in heaven; but help us so to pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not things eternal.

Graciously regard whatever of duty we have this day performed. Forgive whatever has been sinful in us. Let no evil come near us or our dwelling in the night; and bring us to the

morning rejoicing still in thy great goodness, and praising thee, the Father of all mercies, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Tuesday Morning.

ALMIGHTY God, maker of all things, whose we are, and on whom we entirely depend; we bless thee that thou hast kept us during the past night; that thou hast refreshed us with grateful slumbers; that thou hast preserved us from the dangers which walk in darkness, and hast opened our eyes on the light of another day. We acknowledge, O God, that these are but a small part of thy mercies. Thou hast been always with us; thou art continually doing us good. All the blessings which we enjoy, or have ever enjoyed come down from thee, the Father and the Friend of all.

We would call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to bless and praise thy holy name, and not to forget all the benefits of him, who forgiveth our iniquities, who healeth our diseases, who redeemeth our lives from destruction, and crowneth us with loving-kindness and tender mercy. Oh teach us how to thank thee as we ought; to show forth thy praise not only with our lips but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Let us cherish that faith which is imbibed from a pure doctrine, and is manifested by a holy life. Let us cultivate that piety which deeply reverences and supremely loves a Being of infinite perfections, and which produces, as its natural fruit, a sincere love for all mankind. May

every day of our lives be marked by some valuable improvement, some act of virtue, some victory over temptation and passion. May we be continually advancing nearer to perfection, to the moral likeness of our Saviour, and to thy rest and happiness above.

O God, we look to thee for thy protection through this day. Keep us from danger, from sickness, and from falling into sin. Enable us to be useful to society, and to obtain the approbation of those whom we love. Let us especially so conduct ourselves this day, and through all our days, as to secure thy favor which is life, and thy loving-kindness which is better than life. We ask all things in the name, and as disciples of thy blessed Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Tuesday Evening.

EVER gracious and indulgent God, who hast brought us to the close of this day in safety and peace; we render thee our devout thanksgivings for the mercies which we have experienced, and commend ourselves to thy continued protection. Unworthy as we are, we yet would seek thy face and implore thy favor, for thou hast bid us look to thee as our merciful Father, who will never forget nor forsake his children, and is always ready to forgive those who truly turn to him.

We therefore pray thee, O Father, that above all things thou wouldest assist us in loving and serving thee.

What our lot shall be, we leave to thy wise providence; but oh teach us, under all circumstances, to be grateful to thee in prosperity, and resigned to thy will in affliction and distress. Inspire our hearts with a purer love to thee; enlighten our minds with heavenly wisdom; and make our desires conform themselves to thy purposes. Let gratitude be the pervading disposition of our souls. May we always feel that we are thy children; that we have received from thee infinitely more than we deserve; and that the least return which we can make to thee, is, to be contented and cheerful under thy paternal government.

May our reverence for thy will and commandments be displayed in our conduct toward our brethren of the human family; so that we may constantly

regard them with feelings of pure benevolence, and do unto them as we should wish them to do unto us. Let us go to rest this night at peace with all mankind, and with bosoms free from all envy, hatred, malice, and uncharitableness; and grant that we may rise up in the morning with a firm resolution to imitate thee, according to the measure of our humble capacity, by doing good.

Hear, answer, forgive, and accept us, O Father in heaven, for thine infinite mercy's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Wednesday Morning.

O THOU infinite and eternal Spirit, by whose power the world in which we live, and the countless worlds by which we are surrounded, were created from nothing; by whose wisdom they and all that they contain are constantly directed; by whose goodness they are preserved in order and filled with happiness and beauty; and without whose support they would all return to the nothing from which they came; we thy dependent offspring humbly adore that power which displays itself so abundantly wherever we turn our eyes; we adore that wisdom which governs all things rightly, and we bless

that goodness by which all things are blessed. We come to thee this morning with the grateful acknowledgment of our dependence on thy bounty and protection. By thee our daily returning wants are supplied; by thee our dwellings are defended; our blessings are preserved; our feet are kept from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death.

We delight in contemplating our dependence upon thee. Weak and ignorant as we are, we rejoice to know and to feel our perfect subjection to thine all-wise control, and that we are surrounded by the presence of the omniscient and eternal God. And we thank and bless thee, O Father, for every opportunity which we enjoy of exercising and improving the immortal faculties and affections of our nature.

We thank thee for the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ; for the heavenly radiance which it has shed on the path of our duty, through the gloom of affliction, and on the bed of death. We thank thee that it has enabled us to look beyond the bounds of mortality and time, and defy the power of change and death; and that it has promised to the faithful servants of God, and true disciples of Christ, those glorious rewards of a future life, which eye hath never seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived.

All is from thee; all joy, all support, all improvement, all hope. Oh, may we become worthy of thy mercies, by receiving them as from thee, and using them according to thy will; by renouncing and avoiding all that is evil, and following after and cleaving to all

that is good; by living and dying in thy fear and love. And when we come to die, may we be able to look back on a life not uselessly spent, and forward to a blessed immortality.

Hear us, O Father, in heaven where thou dwellest, and accept us in the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer; as whose disciples we address thee, and through whom we ascribe unto thee everlasting honors. *Amen.*

Wednesday Evening.

O GOD, the unchangeable and everlasting fountain of life, perfection, and happiness; we lift up our hearts unto thee, the greatest, wisest, and best of beings. Grant that we may increase in the knowledge of thee, day by day; that we may constantly attain more pure and worthy conceptions of thy nature and providence; that we may manifest a more becoming reverence for thy perfections, and a truer concern for thy honor and service.

O thou who art love, and who dwellest in love, let us humbly imitate thy constant and universal goodness. May

we behave in our several stations with integrity and benevolence, and discover the real spirit of piety and goodness in all the relations of life. May we walk within our houses with perfect hearts; be faithful and affectionate to our friends, and just and kind to all men. May we put on the ornament of a meek, compassionate, forgiving spirit; and may every good and generous disposition be daily improving in our breasts, until we become fit for that happy kingdom, where love, and peace, and joy for ever reign.

We also pray thee, O God, to teach us the knowledge and the government of ourselves; may we keep our hearts with all diligence, amidst all the trials and changes of the world; in prosperity may we be humble, temperate, and charitable; in adversity may we

be patient, and wholly resigned to thy will. Save us, O gracious God, from anger and malice, from revenge and uncharitableness, from pride and presumption, from the snares of the wicked, and the fatal influence of every evil example; give us prudence to direct our affairs, resolution to preserve our innocence, and wisdom and constancy to retain our integrity as long as we live. In whatever station thou art pleased to appoint our lot, and wherever we are, in public or in private, may it be our uniform and steady purpose to discharge our duty with fidelity; and in that solemn day, when thou, supreme over all, shalt judge the world by Jesus Christ, may we appear with humble confidence and joy, and be admitted into thy glorious and everlasting kingdom.

O God, we implore thy blessing on all that is dear and valuable to us. We pray thee to bless our country, our rulers, our friends, the churches of Christ, the ministers of religion, the instructors of youth, the rising generation, and all the means of establishing, preserving, and diffusing the principles of liberty and virtue. Keep us this night by thine almighty power; be always our defender, guide, and friend; and to thee, the infinite and eternal God, we will ascribe continually all glory, honor, and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thursday Morning.

O THOU great Creator, governor, and supporter of men; thou dwellest in light, and art the father of lights, with whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning. Grateful for the care which thou hast exercised over us during the night past, we would cheerfully submit ourselves to thy guidance through the day upon which we have entered. Keep us in thy faith and fear, and secure us from every evil of soul and body. Impress on our hearts a solemn sense of thy universal presence. Preserve us from any snares and dangers to which we may be exposed, and especially from the sins

which do most easily beset us. Prepare us for new occurrences, whether prosperous or adverse, and quicken us in the discharge of those duties which lie before us. We have been secured from harm another night, and we see in health the light of this morning. Great is thy mercy and faithfulness. Let not continued peace and prosperity make us forgetful of thee, or weaken our minds or corrupt our integrity. Impressed with a grateful sense of thy watchful care, we desire to make thy will the law of our behavior.

Thou prolongest our lives, that we may attain more and more to the true end of life. May this day witness some improvement in knowledge, piety, and virtue. May it witness our diligence in that occupation to which thou hast called us. We desire and purpose

to keep consciences void of offence, and to abstain from every action offensive to the eye of divine purity; but the experience which we have had of our frailty makes us diffident of our strength. Our confidence is in thy power to strengthen our faith, invigorate our obedience, and cause us to run in the way of thy commandments. We implore thine aid, that we may walk before thee this day, and all the days of our lives. Smile on our endeavors after improvement and usefulness; enable us to make every day some progress in a holy life; teach us to feel the uncertainty and value of our days on earth; and when they shall be numbered and finished, receive us into the light and bliss of thy glorious presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Thursday Evening.

O GOD, the Father of mercies, the God of love, and of all consolation; we thy servants unite to present unto thee our unfeigned thanks, for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to the children of men.

We thank thee, that thou hast created us in thine own image; endued us with social affections; implanted in our hearts a sense of good and evil; and called us to the fear and love of thee, the greatest and best of beings. We praise thee for our continual support, and for all the comforts of our lives. Thou givest us health and fruitful seasons, and fillest our hearts with

food and gladness. Blessed be the Lord, even the God of our salvation, who daily loadeth us with benefits.

Above all, we thank thee, for thy great mercy, in sending thy well beloved Son Jesus Christ into the world, to instruct us by his excellent doctrine; to guide us by his perfect example; and to fill us with the joyful hope of eternal life. Thou hast been mindful of us and blessed us; thou hast dealt bountifully with us, and done great things for us. We will bless thee at all times; thy praise shall be continually in our mouths.

We acknowledge before thee, O God, who rulest the children of men with wisdom and goodness, that we have not duly improved thy manifold mercies. Though thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, we have

sinned against thee. We desire to forsake all our evil ways, and to return unto thee with our whole hearts; and we humbly beseech thee, who art slow to anger and ready to forgive, that thou wouldest pardon all our transgressions. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us, and grant us thy salvation.

Lead us by thy gracious hand in the path of our duty; and, in the time of temptation, let thy good Spirit be with us, to keep us from falling. May our minds be purified from all sinful affections; may falsehood and deceit have no place in our words; and, in all our ways, may we obey thy commandments; that being holy in thy sight, we may obtain thy favor, and may finally be received into thine everlasting kingdom.

Take us, merciful Father, under

thine almighty protection, through this night, and the remaining part of our lives; prepare us for all the events which may hereafter befall us; and enable us, under all the changes of this world, to do that which is right in thy sight. If, through thy kind providence, we spend our days in prosperity, may we beware lest we forget thee in our abundance. Under all the troubles of life, may the consolations of religion sustain our spirits; and, in the hour of death, let thy mighty power support us, and let thy mercy, O God, be upon us. Command thy blessing upon thy servants, even life for evermore.

We pray unto thee, O gracious God, in behalf of all our friends. Supply their wants out of the stores of thy bounty; let thy watchful providence evermore defend them from evil; and

let thy goodness and mercy follow them all the days of their lives.

We address our united devotions unto thee, the giver of all good things, in the name and as the disciples of Jesus Christ; and now unto the blessed and only potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, dwelling in light to which no man can approach, whom no man hath seen or can see, be honor and power everlasting. *Amen.*

Friday Morning.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being; we, thy needy creatures, render thee our humble praises, for thy preservation of us from the beginning of our lives to this day. We thank thee for refreshing us with the slumbers, and guarding us from the dangers, of the past night. For all thy mercies we bless and magnify thy glorious name; humbly beseeching thee to accept this our morning sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

And since it is by thy mercy, O gracious Father, that another day is added to our lives, we here dedicate

both our souls and our bodies to thee and thy service in a sober, righteous, and godly life; in which resolution do thou, O merciful God, confirm and strengthen us; that as we grow in age, we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

But, O God, who knowest the weakness of our nature, and the manifold temptations which we daily meet with, we humbly beseech thee to have compassion on our infirmities, and to give us the constant assistance of thy holy Spirit, that we may be effectually restrained from sin and excited to our duty. Imprint upon our hearts such a dread of thy judgments, and such a grateful sense of thy goodness to us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend thee; and keep in our minds

a lively remembrance of that great day, in which we must give an account of our thoughts, words, and actions, and according to the works done in the body, be rewarded or punished, by him, whom thou hast appointed the judge of the quick and dead, thy Son Jesus Christ.

In particular, we implore thy grace and protection for the ensuing day. Keep us temperate in our meats and drinks, and diligent in our several callings. Grant us patience under any afflictions thou shalt see fit to lay on us, and minds always contented with our present condition. Give us grace to be just and upright in all our dealings; quiet and peaceable; full of compassion; and ready to do good unto all men, according to our abilities and opportunities. Direct us in all

our ways, and prosper the works of our hands in the business of our several stations. Defend us from all dangers and adversities; and be graciously pleased to take us and all things belonging to us under thy fatherly care and protection. These things, and whatever else thou shalt see necessary and convenient to us, we humbly beg in the name and as the disciples of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Redeemer. *Amen.*

Friday Evening.

MOST merciful God, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised forgiveness to all those who confess and forsake their sins; we come before thee this evening, in an humble sense of our unworthiness, acknowledging our transgressions of thy righteous laws. But, O gracious Father, who desirest not the death of a sinner, look upon us, we beseech thee, in mercy, and forgive us the sins which we have committed against thee. Make us deeply sensible of the evil of all unrighteousness; and work in us a hearty contrition for our faults and offences, that we may obtain forgive-

ness at thy hands, who art ever ready to receive the humble and penitent.

And lest, through our own frailty, or the temptations which encompass us, we be drawn into further sin, grant us the direction and assistance of thy holy Spirit. Reform whatever is amiss in the temper and disposition of our souls; that no unclean thoughts, unlawful designs, or inordinate desires may rest there. Purge our hearts from envy, hatred, and malice; that we may never suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath; but may always retire to our rest, in peace, charity, and goodwill, with a conscience void of offence towards thee and towards man.

And accept, O Lord, our intercessions for all mankind. Let the light of thy gospel shine upon all nations; and may as many as have received it,

live as becomes it. Be gracious unto thy church; and grant that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may serve thee faithfully. Bless all in authority over us; and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain thy true religion and virtue. Send down thy blessings, temporal, and spiritual, upon all our relations, friends, and neighbors. Reward all who have done us good, and pardon all those who have done or wish us evil, and give them repentance and better minds. Be merciful to all who are in any trouble; and of thine abundant goodness minister unto them according to their several necessities.

To our prayers, O Lord, we join our unfeigned thanks for all thy mer-

cies; for our being, our reason, and all other endowments and faculties of soul and body; for our health, friends, food, and raiment, and all the other comforts and conveniences of life. Above all we adore thy mercy in sending thy Son into the world to redeem us from sin and death, and to show us the Father. We bless thee for thy patience with us; for the assistances of thy holy Spirit; for thy continual care and watchful providence over us through the whole course of our lives. We pray thee to continue thy blessings to us; and to give us grace to show our thankfulness in a sincere obedience to thy laws.

We beseech thee to protect us this night. Defend us from all dangers, and give us such refreshing sleep as may fit us for the duties of the follow-

ing day. Make us ever mindful of the time when we shall lie down in the dust; and grant us grace always to live in such a state, that we may never be afraid to die; so that living and dying we may be thine, and thine for evermore. We ask all in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Saturday Morning.

O GOD, our Creator and heavenly Father, the giver of all good, upon whom we depend now and for ever; under an awful sense of thy constant presence with us, we thy creatures and thy servants are assembled together, to thank thee for thine undeserved goodness to us at all times, and particularly to acknowledge the watchful care of thy providence, by which we have been preserved during the defenceless hours of the night, and brought in health and safety to the light of another day.

Thy mercies, O God, are renewed to us every morning. Let our grati-

tude and dutiful obedience to thee bear some proportion to thy favors, that we may be a family fearing thee, and glorifying thy name among men. We desire to set thee our God before us in all our ways, that thy blessing may constantly go along with us, and that we may never undertake any thing which we dare not beg of thee to prosper; but may always pursue what thou, the righteous Judge, approvest, and wilt finally reward and honor.

Assist us, gracious God, in the discharge of all social and relative duties. May it be our prevailing aim to bear a nearer resemblance unto thee, the original of all perfection, and to proceed, after the example of Jesus Christ thy Son, in the practice of all goodness. By the expectation of a happy immortality, may our virtue be supported,

and our peace secured; that we may live in a state of continual improvement, and preparation for that heavenly kingdom, into which nothing unholy or impure shall ever enter.

O God, to the direction of thy wise and unerring providence we do entirely commit ourselves. Safe under thy protection, and happy in thy favor, we would cheerfully follow where thou pleasest to conduct us. We desire only that portion of the good things of this life which thou seest to be fit for us, and would decline no sufferings which thou shalt appoint for the trial and improvement of our virtue. Be with us this day, and all our days. In health and in sickness, in life and in death, may we lift up our souls to thee, and make thy goodness alone our confidence and joy; and may we so pass

through the changing scenes of the present world, that we may be prepared for the pure and unmixed happiness of thy glorious presence for evermore. Mercifully hear and accept us, O God, through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Saturday Evening.

O THOU who alone art from everlasting, without beginning of days, or end of years; we rejoice that amid the continual changes of this our uncertain life, we can look to thee, O God, who endurest for ever. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but thou remainest, and wilt never fail those who trust in thee, nor hide thy face from those who love thee.

Preserver of men, at the close of another day and week, we would render unto thee our sincere and humble thanks for all the mercies of thy providence, by which our lives have been supported

and blest. We acknowledge with joy that it is thou alone who preservest us, and makest us to dwell in safety; for in thy hands alone our life and breath are, and thine are all our ways.

Forgive, we beseech thee, the transgressions of the past day, the past week, and of all past time. Whatever has been amiss in our conduct, or irregular in our dispositions, whatever we have done which we ought not to have done, or omitted which we ought to have performed, wilt thou, in thy great mercy, forgive. Knowing our frailty and danger from the past, may we in future take more careful heed to our steps, and walk more uprightly before thee. Quicken our consciences, and sanctify our hearts. Make us more pure, humble, and devout, more benevolent and useful; and so teach

us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Hitherto thou hast helped and sustained us. Truly our hope is in thee, and under the shadow of thy wings will we put our trust. Grant us refreshment this night by sleep; and may we arise in thy favor in the morning, and be fitted for the sacred duties of the day. O thou who givest power to the faint, and to those who have no might increasest strength, give unto us strength to do and to bear thy whole will and pleasure. In thine everlasting arms support us; by thy mighty power defend us; let thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy goodness and mercy follow us all our days. We dedicate ourselves to thee as our God and guide through life, our support and comfort in death, and after death

our everlasting portion and felicity. When the present succession of days and nights shall cease, wilt thou graciously receive us to that state where we shall serve thee without intermission and without weariness, through the day of eternity.

We commend to thee our relatives and friends. We ask thy compassion for the distressed, thy mercy for the erring and guilty, thy blessing upon all men. Promote the cause of knowledge and religion in the earth; let the pure doctrines and practice of Christianity everywhere prevail, and the whole earth be filled with thy glory and praise.

Holy Watchman of thy people, who dost never slumber nor sleep; the ever-blessed God, who art able to do for us more exceedingly than we can ask or

think; the Father almighty; the King eternal, immortal, and invisible; unto thee be all honor and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer for a Bereaved Family.

O THOU eternal Lord our God, the Lord of life and death, who givest and who takest away, enable us all to say, with sincere and humble resignation, Thy name be blessed, and thy will be done. In all our troubles and adversities, whensoever they oppress us, we would come to thee, O Father, and put our whole trust and confidence in thee, and lay down the burthen of our sorrows before thee, and look to thee alone for consolation and help; for we know that thou art a God of mercy and compassion, and that though clouds and darkness are round about thee, righteousness and judgment are the foundations of thy throne.

We desire to submit with all humility and patience to the recent afflictive dispensation of thy righteous providence. Be pleased to sanctify it to thy servants the members of this family. Teach us to turn this sorrow to our eternal good; and let the sense of our loss make us cleave more steadfastly to thee. Let no repining thoughts rise in our hearts, but help us to place our affections more strongly on those immovable things which are above, and to resign unto thee all our thoughts and desires. By this chastisement may we be purified from sin, quickened in duty, mortified to the world, and raised above it. Send thy holy Spirit to abide with and comfort our hearts, and enable us to endure tribulation as becometh disciples of thy Son Jesus Christ.

Bind more closely together the sur-

viving members of this family. Increase in us a tender and faithful affection. May we learn how to promote each other's happiness, and mitigate the sorrows which have befallen, or yet await us. Teach us to feel the vanity of earthly things, to delight in thy word, to study thy will, to observe thy law, and to work out our own salvation; that when we go the way of all the earth, we may be comforted by thy presence, and admitted to that heavenly state where all tears shall be wiped from our eyes, and there shall be no more decay, nor sickness, nor death; which we ask in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, through whom to thee be rendered everlasting praises. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Children of a Family.

ALMIGHTY God, by whose gracious providence the successive generations of mankind are called into being, we implore thy fatherly blessing on the children of this family. To thy protection and guidance, to thy direction and disposal, we humbly and earnestly recommend them. May they remember their Creator in the days of their youth. Impress on their tender minds that reverence of thee which is the beginning of wisdom; and give them that understanding which shall incline them to keep thy command-

ments. Lead them by thy right hand in the path of duty, and preserve them amidst the temptations to which the young are particularly exposed, and amidst all the temptations of this present evil world. As they grow in years, may they grow in grace, and by a careful improvement of the talents committed to their trust, may they lay a foundation for their present comfort and eternal felicity.

Help us, O Lord, to train them up in thy fear. May we give them seasonable instructions, and set them good examples. Direct us in every part of their education; in the choice of their studies, employments, and stations of life, whereby they may be most happy in themselves, and most useful to society. Let a kind providence accompany them through life; may we have

the comfort of seeing them behave wisely and well, and the hope that they will at last be received to the endless felicity of thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Aged.

GREAT God, and heavenly Father, look down with peculiar favor and kindness upon thine aged servants. Have compassion upon their infirmities, and help them in all their weaknesses, difficulties, and distresses. Cast them not away, O Lord, in their old age. Forsake them not when their strength faileth. Remember not against them former iniquities; but according to thy mercy remember them, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Give them heavenly wisdom. Pour abundance of thy grace upon them, that their hoary heads may be found in the way of righteousness, and their souls

be precious in thy sight. Oh, let goodness and mercy follow them the remainder of their days. Let their last days be their best days, and their last comforts their strongest and sweetest comforts. And, when heart and flesh and all their powers shall fail them, be thou, O God, the strength of their hearts, their support, and their portion, for ever. *Amen.*